



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 15 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S  
DAILY BRIEF  
15 OCTOBER 1968

1. Panama

Efforts by Arias and others to stir up trouble for the junta have had little success. Panama as a whole remains calm.

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Mem-  
bers of Arias' own coalition, convinced his cause is doomed, hope he can be persuaded to clear the way for a civilian government by leaving the country.

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2. Syria

Plotting is the nearest thing to a Syrian national sport, and reports of impending coups appear constantly.

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We think it highly unlikely that any new government would modify Syria's anti-US foreign policy or end the country's chronic instability.

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3. Communist China

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#### 4. Sabah

Now that Marcos has outdone his domestic opponents in pressing the Sabah claim, prominent opposition politicians in Manila are beginning to question the claim's validity. This typically Filipino by-play may take some of the heat out of the issue.

Marcos himself has reduced tensions a bit by raising the idea of arbitration, and the Malaysian deputy prime minister has agreed to meet the Philippine foreign minister late this month. Marcos has asked both the British ambassador and Ambassador Williams to help arrange a summit meeting with Prime Minister Rahman.

All this does not mean an early solution of the dispute, but it may permit the two sides to have another try at a cooling-off period.

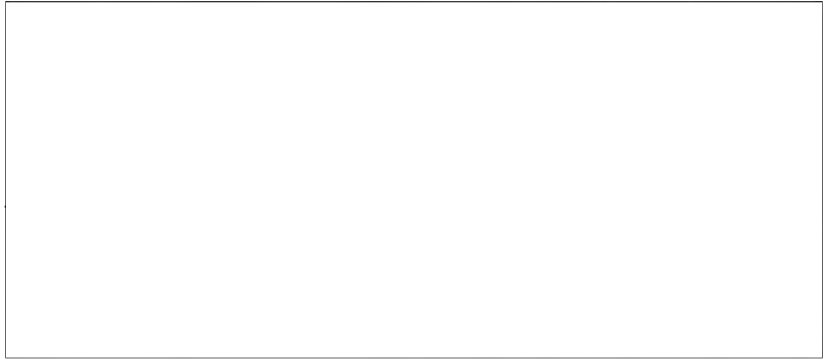
#### 5. Soviet Union

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6. North Korea

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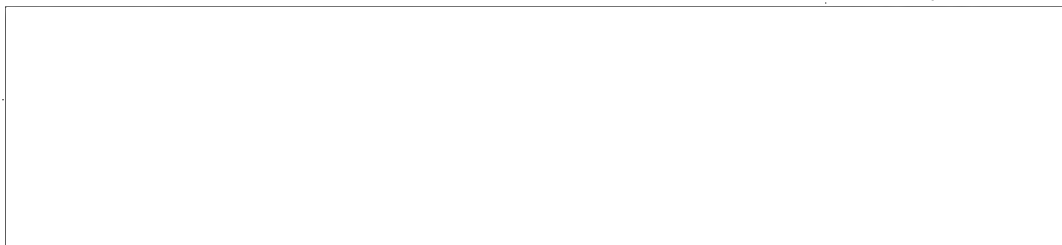
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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S  
Political Attitudes



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15 October 1968



Special Daily Report on North Vietnam  
for the President's Eyes Only

15 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duc Tho Back to Hanoi: After spending the last two months in Paris, North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho left France for Hanoi on 14 October. A North Vietnamese spokesman said the trip was for consultation. He professed ignorance in response to questions about when or if Tho would return to Paris.

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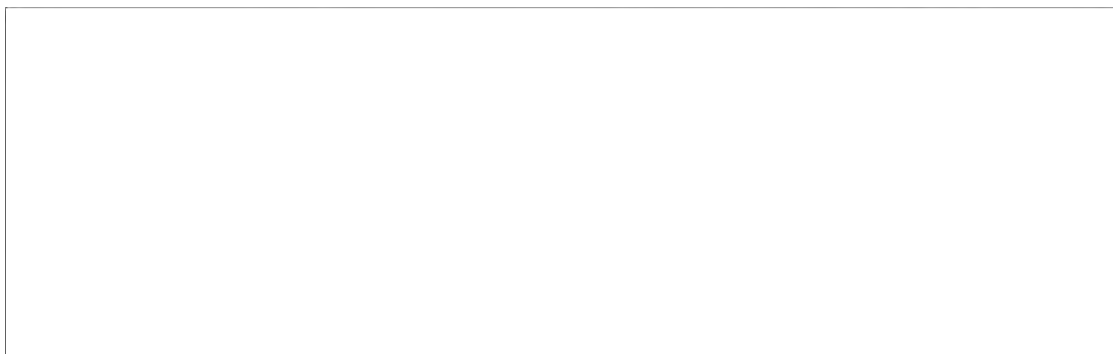
Front Officials Arrive in Sweden: Two Liberation Front officials arrived in Stockholm on 14 October to set up a Front information office there, according to a French news agency dispatch. One of the Communist arrivals will be the first chief of the new office; the other is a Front Central Committee member. This is the second such office to be opened in a non-Communist European country--Paris was the first.

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## II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Le on Bundy: Nguyen Thanh Le, the spokesman for Hanoi's Paris delegation, has provided the first Vietnamese Communist reaction to McGeorge Bundy's recent speech on Vietnam. At his regular press briefing yesterday, Le was asked if he had any comment on Bundy's proposals. He replied, "With regard to the statement by Mr. Bundy on the unconditional cessation of bombing, we consider it a realistic measure which has positive effects."

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